



***WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Wednesday, June 3, 2009, for the purpose of discussing alignment of the Purple Line.***

*Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:43 p.m. It was held in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center.*

*PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.*

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: Pam Browning, Save the Trail Coalition; and Harry Sanders, Purple Line NOW.*

*Mayor Davis said the City has supported the concept of the Purple Line for several years. She noted it had recently come before the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for consideration to be included in the National Capital Region's Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP).*

*Council discussed the Purple Line options of bus rapid transit and light rail transit, along with the Georgetown Branch alignment along the Capital Crescent Trail (CCT) and the Jones Bridge Road alignment. Mayor Davis stated both Prince George's County and Montgomery County support the light rail option using the Georgetown Branch alignment.*

*Mr. Roberts said he was opposed to light rail along the CCT, noting it would negatively impact a recreation area which is used by over 10,000 people each week. Mr. Roberts also said that the Town of Chevy Chase and the Columbia Country Club are strongly opposed to this alternative.*

*Ms. Browning, Save the Trail Coalition, said they had received over 18,000 signatures on a petition to save the CCT and proposed tunneling the light rail underground or using the bus rapid transit/Jones Bridge Road option. She showed pictures of the CCT and commented that a significant number of trees would be lost along the trail using the light rail option.*

*Mr. Sanders, Purple Line NOW, spoke in support of the light rail option along the Georgetown Branch. He said Montgomery County had purchased the right of way which is now used as the CCT over 20 years ago for future development as a light rail line. He emphasized the need for the east west rapid transit service for the area.*

*Mr. Putens asked if tunneling the light rail in the CCT area was an option. Mr. Sanders said tunneling would be very expensive. He also mentioned that if tunneling was done in this location, it would have to be considered in other areas also.*

*Mayor Davis requested staff review the Draft Environmental Impact Study to determine actual tree loss of the light rail option along the CCT. She also recommended the City not get involved in the conflict over use of the CCT and recommended it be worked out by Montgomery County.*

*After further discussion, Mayor Davis requested “Purple Line Alignment” be included on the agenda for the regular meeting on June 8. She asked staff to prepare a letter to the TPB and elected officials stating the City’s support of the Purple Line using the light rail option and recommendation that the project begin in Prince George’s County. She also asked that the letter indicate the City’s concern about the environmental impacts of the project and request all route alternatives be reviewed carefully.*

## **Other Issues**

*Mr. McLaughlin and Ms. Murray briefed Council on information obtained regarding changing the name of “Absentee Voting” to “Vote by Mail.” After reviewing election requirements, it was determined the City must have absentee voting by the name of “Absentee Voting.”*

*There was discussion regarding the various options for early voting. It was noted that the City would need a computerized system (such as E-Poll books) in order to offer early voting at multiple locations at the same time.*

*The meeting ended at 10:06 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Cindy Murray  
City Clerk*